

FUNDA Y TIMES



Kekulu Art Winners

Pic. by Akila Jayawardena

WINNERS!
POETRY & ESSAYS
PAGES 2 & 5



EVENTS
PAGE 3



LANDMARK
PAGE 4

(ONLINE)



STORY
PAGE 6



**Please send
competition entries to:**

Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

**Please note that competition
entries are accepted by email.**

**Write the name of the competition
and the date clearly
at the top of your entry and
include the following details:**

Full Name (including Surname).

Date of Birth, Address.

Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name
most commonly used.

**All competition entries should be
certified by a parent or guardian
as your own work.**

Competition entries without the
full details requested above,
will be disqualified.

Closing Date

for this week's competitions:

December 25, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Age groups:

6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years

Word limit: 100 Words

6 – 10 years

My mother

No one can take your place,
You are everything to me,
Your hugs are warm,
And make me happy.

You help me in my studies,
You are my guide,
Your heart understood,
When I needed a friend.

Your strength and love guided me,
And gave me wings to fly,
My mother is my world,
My mother is the best.

She is my real gold,
I love you my mom.

**Suganthan Labishan
Harvard Int. School, Matale**



Poetry Competition

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with 'Poetry Competition' written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.

11 – 15 years

Tsunami

Sunrise in the morning,
White foam building,
Blue waves returning,
Everyone is enjoying,
Will disappear immediately.

A big wave,
Destroy all happiness,
Tragedy begins,
Small ripples become a big wave...

Melting houses into sand,
Attacking children and adults,
The laughter fades,
Sadness rises everywhere,
Tears fall from eyes...

All those who have lost their,
Children, parents, friends,
Relatives and properties,
Are saddened by it...

**Thenuri Keerthisena,
Maliyadeva B.V., Kurunegala**

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

**Topic: Christmas Eve with
family and friends**

**Win: Diary of a Wimpy Kid –
Hot Mess by Jeff Kinney**

The pressure is building
for Greg Heffley, who
discovers that when you mix
heaps of family, a tiny beach
house and sweltering heat,
it's a recipe for disaster.

Speaking of recipes – the
secret ingredients behind
Gramma's famous meatballs have been
closely guarded for years. Can Greg
unpack all of his family's mysteries before
their vacation is over? Or will he just stir
the pot?



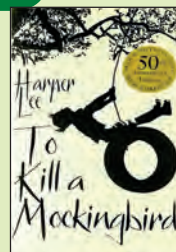
Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Your wish for Christmas

**Win: To Kill a Mocking Bird
by Harper Lee**

Through the eyes of Scout
and Jem Finch, Harper Lee
explores with exuberant
humour, the irrationality of
adult attitudes to race and
class in the Deep South of
the 1930s. The conscience of
a town steeped in prejudice, violence and
hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one
man's struggle for justice.



Book Competition



9 years and below

My favourite hobby
Seja Abeywickrama,
Southlands College, Galle

10 – 12 years

A television programme I enjoy
Bihandu Keerthisena
Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala

13 – 15 years

A machine I would like to
invent
R. H. Yusuf-ul-Haq,
Matale Int. School

Win **super
books
from**



Age: 9 years and below

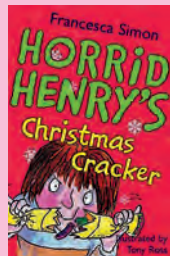
Word Count: 150

Topic: Your best Christmas gift

**Win: Horrid Henry – Christmas
Cracker by Francesca Simon**

This book contains a school
play, some stolen sweets,
a visit from Father Christmas
and a HELLISH dinner!

Four utterly hilarious and
totally brilliant Horrid Henry
stories by Francesca Simon,
with illustrations by Tony Ross.
An irresistible introduction to reading for
pleasure.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Kekulu Kinder Art Competition - 2024



Siddhalepa proudly hosted the Kekulu Art Competition 2024 Awards Ceremony on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at the J.R. Jayawardene Center in Colombo, where Pre-school children from across Sri Lanka were celebrated for their creativity and expressiveness.

The event, now in its 10th consecutive year, was organized to recognize the artistic talents of children who participated in the competition, with prizes awarded to the best entries. Over 60,000 entries were received.

While the key winners were given special gifts, a total of 100 winners were presented with a certificate and an array of gifts during the ceremony.

Among the many sponsors, Funday Times (The Sunday Times) was the official Print Partner.

ComBank rewards winners of 5th 'Arunalu Siththam' Children's Art Competition

The artistic talent of 137 children was celebrated and rewarded with Rs 3 million in cash prizes when the Commercial Bank of Ceylon concluded the fifth edition of its 'Arunalu Siththam' Children's Art Competition with a grand awards ceremony recently.

Exclusively for children between the ages of four and 16, the competition was hosted under the banner of the Bank's popular children's savings account 'Arunalu' and was also open to Sri Lankan children living overseas. More than 12,000 drawings were uploaded to www.arunalusiththam.lk

as entries in the five age groups specified for the competition.

Pictured here are the winners of the 2024 Arunalu Siththam Children's Art Competition with Commercial Bank's Managing Director/CEO Mr Sanath Manatunge and representatives of the Bank's corporate management.



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Winners' Essays
- **Page 6** – Story
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- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.



Milan Cathedral



Milan Cathedral is one of the largest cathedrals in the world. It is the second largest Catholic Church in the world after Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. It covers a surface of 109,641 square feet and an entire city block. It has 3,400 statues, 135 gargoyles and 700 figures.

The Saint Bartholomew Flayed is the most famous statue of them all. It was made by Marco d'Agrate. The cathedral is locally known as the Duomo. It is located in Milan, Italy. Currently, it serves as the cathedral of Archdiocese of Milan, which is Europe's largest diocese.

Fast Facts:

- Before the arrival of Christianity, the location of this Duomo was a sacred Roman site.
- There is a sundial on the floor and it is so precise that it is used to regulate the clocks throughout the city.
- It is dedicated to St. Mary of the Nativity. This church is the seat of the Archbishop of Milan.
- Its construction was started in 1386 by Archbishop Antonio da Saluzzo. It took nearly six centuries to complete.
- The inauguration of the last gate took place on January 6th 1965.
- The church has a cruciform plan in the form of a Latin cross covering about 12,000 square meters and approximately 40,000 people can fit in it.
- There is a spot marked with a red light bulb above the apse. It is the spot where one of the nails of Jesus's crucifixion was allegedly placed.

- The cathedral features various different architectural styles. It was initially designed in a Gothic style.
- The cathedral has 3 massive altars beautifully decorated.
- The Milan Cathedral got a new LED lighting system installed in 2015.



Cathedral Apse

Pic TravelMate



Famous Landmarks Quiz 55

Q: To whom is the Milan Cathedral dedicated?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 54

Dulsha Dhamsara
Udugama



Source: Easy Science for Kids

Book Competition



9 years and below

My favourite hobby

There are many beautiful idioms and difficult words in the English language. Only a few people know how to use these idioms and difficult words correctly. I also need to be a famous writer who uses them correctly. Therefore I'm collecting famous idioms and finding difficult words as my hobby.

One day, when I was walking in the Galle Fort, I found a piece of paper with beautiful idioms. At that moment I told myself, "you must collect these things, if you want to be a famous writer." That's how my interesting hobby began.

I read newspapers and underline difficult words every afternoon. After that, I look them up in the Oxford Dictionary. I take a book and write these difficult words and idioms with their meaning. Sunday Times, Funday Times and my mother's Oxford Dictionary help me a lot.

New and exciting idioms and words make my life more interesting. So I say that 'variety is the spice of life.'

Seja Abeywickrama
Southland College, Galle

10 – 12 years

A television programme I enjoy

Watching TV is a great way to relax. I watch different programmes on different channels. There are also some instructive programmes on Television. These generally cover different branches of knowledge. Everyone has his/her favourite TV show, including me. As the saying goes, we should share good things with friends.

My favourite TV programme is 'Lakshapathi.' It is telecast on Sirasa TV every weekend at 7.30 p.m. This is an educational programme which is very popular among children and adults. It is conducted by

Chandhana Sooriyabandara. He conducts the 'Lakshapathi' programme very pleasantly and joyfully.

This programme is very useful to improve our knowledge. It is possible to learn more about other countries and know many things that we do not know. I believe this will be your best choice to gain knowledge and happiness. The most important thing is that this programme can be enjoyed by the whole family.

Bihandu Keerthisena
Maliyadeva College,
Kurunegala

13 – 15 years

A machine I would like to invent

The world is becoming increasingly popular on a relaying information and computation. Without information and computation, it is difficult to survive in the modern world. Power and energy needed for machines are also increasing day by day. I would like to invent a machine that should have power and mechanics to revolutionize fields from medicine to artificial intelligence.

That machine should be capable of solving complex problems.

Those complex problems should be inter-actable for even the most powerful supercomputers.

My dream machine should be able to diagnose diseases like cancer and many other incurable diseases. It should work more efficiently. Next my machine should be able to find the cyber threats. This is one of the problems faced in the modern world. The machine should enable to find them more efficiently and I wish my machine should be able to predict

the climate changes too. This could mitigate the effects of climate. So as we know climatic changes may cause vast damages to society.

Finally, I expect my machine should overcome the problems of technological innovation. This is not merely a dream. It is a tangible goal to reach. I think through my machine I can make the impossible become possible.

R.H. Yusuf -ul-Haq
Matale Int. School



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:



The Sun and The Rain

By Manoshi De Silva

One sunny morning, three little eggs in a bird nest, hatched one by one. The little chicks looked around in surprise. The world outside was so bright and colourful. “Look at all this!” they chirped in excitement, seeing the trees, flowers and the clouds. The sun was slowly rising up in the sky. They all stared at the golden morning sun in surprise. “Isn’t that light so bright and beautiful?” “That is the sun!” said their mother, who came to feed them. “The sunrays are so warm and nice!” said the little chicks. “We love the sun!”

The mother of the little chicks came to the nest from time to time and fed them. The chicks peeped out of their nest and looked at everything around them. How big the world outside was! They saw so many interesting things. But they all agreed that the sun was the most beautiful thing out of them all. Nothing was as bright or as shiny as the sun.

Little by little the day passed by and the sun went higher and higher up in the sky. The warm sunrays got hotter as time went by. By afternoon the sunrays were very hot and the chicks couldn’t bear the heat. “It’s too hot!” they panted. They were very tired and they started to complain, “We don’t like the sun anymore. We wish it wasn’t there in the sky!”

The sun heard this and felt very sad. So he pulled a cloud and covered his face. It got dark suddenly. “Where did the sun go?” wondered the chicks. “It’s not hot anymore but now it’s dark and gloomy!” A raincloud that was passing by saw what happened and decided to make use of this opportunity. So he started to shed tiny droplets of rain water.

When the raindrops started falling from the sky, the little chicks looked around in surprise. “What is happening?” they wondered. “Is the sun crying because we scolded him?” The tiny raindrops fell on the chicks and it was very cool and refreshing for them,



as they were feeling hot and tired by the sunrays which fell on them earlier. “This is very cool and nice!” said the chicks, “we love this!”

“Yes, it feels very nice after the harsh sunrays,” said the mother of the little chicks, who came to the nest. “This is called the rain!” The chicks chirped happily, “We love the rain. We don’t want the sun again. We want it to rain without stopping!” The raincloud got very excited after hearing this. So he made the rain heavier.

The tiny water drops turned bigger and heavier as they splashed on the little chicks. The chicks started getting wet. It was not nice and fun anymore. They all started to cry as they became like wet sponges. Their mother sheltered them with her wings and tried to keep them without getting wet. But the wind blew hard, splashing water drops all over and their tree shook in the wind, frightening the chicks some more.

Then came the lightning and thunder. The chick became very scared. So they started to cry saying, “please make this stop! We don’t like the rain either!”. The rain slowly stopped. The chicks were all soaking wet. “We wish that there will be no more sunshine and no more rain, ever again!” they said shivering in their wet nest. But without sunshine and rain, we can’t be here,” said their mother, “there won’t be any trees, flowers or fruits. There won’t even be any birds or animals!”

Why not?” the chicks wanted to know. “Well, the rain water on the

ground is absorbed by the trees and plants, making them grow big and strong. Then they give flowers and fruits to the insects, birds and animals. And also, all living things need to drink water,” explained their mother.

“Well then, it’s okay if it rains a little. But we don’t want any sunlight!” shouted the chicks. “But without sunlight how would you see?” laughed their mother. “We will manage to somehow find our way around!” said the chicks. “But do you think that is all we get from the sun?” asked the little chicks’ mother, “without the sun, there won’t be any life in this world!”

“How can that be?” shouted the chicks, “The plants and animals don’t eat or drink the sunshine like food or water. So why do we need it, other than for light?”. “We need it because the plants can’t grow without sunlight and without plants, flowers and fruits, how can all the other animals survive?” asked their mother and the chicks were very surprised.

“You see the green tree leaves absorb the sunlight and make food for the trees in their leaves. If there is no sunlight, the plants and trees will wither away. And without the food that the trees provide for the animals, they won’t be able to live too!” explained the mother of the chicks. “So the sun and rain are both very important,” said the chicks, “we didn’t know that!”

“Yes, although too much of sunrays and rain can be difficult for us sometimes, they are both very important to this world. So we should appreciate what nature provides for us!” said the little chicks’ mother. “Everything in nature is there to serve a purpose!”

“We are sorry Sun and Rain!” shouted the little chicks, “we now understand that the sunshine and rain is important to this world and also for us!”. The sun peeped from the clouds and gentle warm sunrays fell on the bird nest. The rain cloud also shed happy tears which were light and cool. “What a wonderful world we live in!” said the little chicks, “we must appreciate it and look after it well!”

New satellites to create on-demand total solar eclipses

December 2, 2024



The satellites will blast off on Wednesday 4 December.

Using technology to block out the Sun sounds like the script of a movie, but now scientists plan to do it for real.

It's not a dastardly plot by a super-villain. Experts hope it'll help them to study the Sun in more detail.

The Proba-3 mission from the European Space Agency involves two spacecraft, with one spacecraft covering the Sun for the other.

The craft will launch together from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in India on Wednesday.



The satellites will separate after being blasted into space, but will remain linked.

What is the European Space Agency's Proba-3 mission?

After taking off together the two craft will separate about 18 minutes later, they will remain linked in orbit around the Earth, 144 metres apart using lasers and light sensors.

One of the satellites will block the Sun, and the other will be watching and recording it.

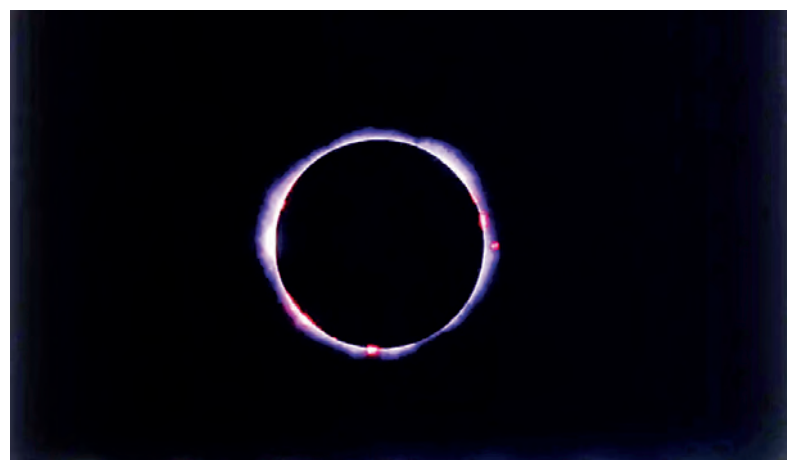
To achieve this, the shadow being cast between the spacecraft must remain in a precise position, which means the craft must fly in formation to an accuracy of a single millimetre - that's about the thickness of a human fingernail.

What an artificial eclipse can tell us about the Sun

Naturally, an eclipse happens when the Moon passes in front of the Sun.

In a cosmic coincidence the Sun is 400 times bigger than our Moon but also about 400 times further away, allowing the Moon to cover the Sun completely during a total solar eclipse.

When that happens, a ring of fire can be seen around the Moon.



The corona of the Sun visible around the moon during a total solar eclipse

Known as the Sun's corona - the outermost part of the Sun's atmosphere - it's a million times fainter than the fiery face of the Sun, so only naturally visible during eclipses, if only for the briefest of moments.

And it's this that scientists want to study, because it's there that solar storms occur.

Powerful solar storms can have a big impact here on Earth, causing disruption to satellites and electronic devices.



At regular intervals, one satellite will cast a shadow on the other, creating a makeshift total solar eclipse.

Total solar eclipses are spectacular, but quite rare.

They happen roughly every two years but can only be seen from a very small part of Earth, so depending where you live it can be 400 years between one solar eclipse and the next.

They can also be blocked by clouds depending on the weather, and don't last very long at all, so can be very tricky for scientists to study.

The aim of the ESA's new mission is to be able to study total solar eclipses whenever they want, and that last for hours instead of minutes.



A total solar eclipse as seen from Texas in the USA earlier this year



December 3

News in Pictures

**Pasir Mas, Malaysia**

A vehicle pulls children in an inflatable boat through a flooded area in Kelantan. According to the National Disaster Control Center, more than 94,000 people have been displaced owing to floods nationwide across nine states while six deaths have been recorded.

**Miami Beach, US**

The Great Elephant Migration art installation, which is travelling across the US promoting human-wildlife coexistence, is displayed during Miami art week in Florida.

La Paz, Bolivia

People dressed as snowmen dance during the annual Christmas Parade in La Paz.

**London, UK**

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer switches on the Downing Street Christmas tree lights with his wife Victoria Starmer, in London.

**Bangkok, Thailand**

Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn reviews the guard of honour, during a trooping of the colours ceremony to mark his 72nd birthday.



December 2

Rhodes, Greece

Cars are piled up following storm Bora in the area of Lalyos, on the island of Rhodes.

Srinagar, India

A Kashmiri man feeds pigeons at a shrine on a cold morning in Srinagar.

**Sofia, Bulgaria**

People look at Christmas decorations in front of the National Palace of Culture in Sofia.

**Santiago, Chile**

A drone view shows a balloon of a Disney character from the 'Toy Story' floating during a department store's parade, as Christmas festive season starts in Santiago.

Sources: Reuters & The Guardian